

Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting
5 January 2021 7:30pm
via the virtual platform Zoom

Present: Councillors: Mr T Brand (Chairman), Mr G R Cox (Vice -Chairman), Mrs R Coombes, Mr C Dowse, Mr R Fell, Mrs G Marffy, Mr N Rousell, Mr G Stoddart-Stones.

South Somerset District (SSDC) Councillor Gerard Tucker
Apologies: Somerset County Councillor Dean Ruddie

On 4th April 2020, the Government introduced The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 to allow local councils to meet remotely.

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

1 To receive apologies for absence

All councillors present at the start of the meeting. Apologies from Cllr Turpin, work commitments.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes of the meeting 1 December 2020

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 and will be duly signed by Cllr Brand when the Parish Council next meets in person.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

Thank you to Cllr Tucker for following up the enforcement issues discussed in the December Parish Council meeting. The SSDC Tree Officer has agreed to follow up some of the tree felling concerns.

5 County Councillors Report

Cllr Ruddle sent apologies, but also forwarded information regarding the Batts Lane Quarry application which was circulated to members.

6 District Councillors Report

Cllr Tucker confirmed that due to staff redeployment, all committee meetings at SSDC are postponed for two months, apart from Full Council, District Executive and Scrutiny.

Waste and Recycling 'More' Programme is imminent. This has been successfully introduced in Mendip. New bins will be issued with new signage for existing bins, which will begin from mid-April. General waste collections will reduce to once every third week. Good news, 98% of all recycling collected in South Somerset has been processed in and kept in the UK after being recycled.

The Transform programme is completed. Planning has emerged less able, and Cllr Tucker keeps pressing for improvements.

The SSDC budget has been set, with an increase of £5 per household on council tax for SSDC.

There is a proposal for SSDC to invest £23.01 million into the Octagon theatre. This was discussed and whereas the asset would benefit from refurbishment. It was suggested that a large venue exists currently in Yeovil (Westlands) and perhaps the residents of Yeovil and south could be asked for a larger contribution towards this proposal.

Concerns that the Huish Episcopi Leisure centre is still shut, and that the desire is for it not to be predominantly a school facility.

7 Planning Applications

7.1. New planning applications received:

No new planning applications received.

7.2. Update on planning applications received if applicable.

Application 20/02958/HOU Fairmead, Shute Lane, Long Sutton. The erection of a detached three bay garage. Permitted with conditions (22/12/2020)

Application 20/02988/LBC Thatch Cottage Hermitage Road. Insertion of an upstairs window to the rear of the property, associated internal alterations to include a studwork partition to create a corridor for the second bedroom (re-submission of 19/03433/LBC). Permitted with conditions (18/12/2020).

Application: 20/01868/COU Land adj Orchard House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton. Change of use of adjoining land to extension of residential garden. Permitted with conditions (3/12/2020)

Application: 20/01884/S73A Stuckey's House, The Green, Long Sutton TA10 9HS. Vary condition 2 of approval 17/01479/FUL to install smart heritage windows instead of crittal. Awaiting decision

Application: 20/02036/S16 Stuckey's House, The Green, Long Sutton TA10 9HS. Vary condition 2 of approval 17/01489/LBC to install smart heritage windows instead of crittal. Awaiting decision.

APP/R3325/W/20/3262373. Appeal had been lodged for Little Upton Bridge Farm (19/02460/FUL). No further information to date

8 Noticeboards

The main village noticeboard needs to be moved from the existing location at the site of the closed shop, to the village hall near to the new Village Shop. Council members to facilitate relocating the noticeboard. The defibrillator signs that are posted in several of the Parish Council noticeboards need to have more details as to the precise location of the village hall (postcode and 'three words' geolocator).

9 Allotments

Possible locations for an allotment facility within the parish were discussed. Some investigation works have been conducted by council members, but suitable locations are difficult to find. The suggestion of a 'no dig' facility as recommended by the National Allotment Society was discussed. No further action to be taken at this time unless community demand meets the required level.

10 Village Hall and Recreation Ground (VH&RGC)

10.1 **Matters brought forward by the committee.**

The village hall will remain shut for the current lockdown (lockdown 3), which will be at least until the middle of February but more likely to be April.

The tennis courts have been closed for the lockdown period as well. The lengthsman has treated the court with moss killer, but the general state of the surface and continued maintenance was discussed. The surface needs to be up to standard to encourage players, and to minimise the risk of accidents.

Quotes to be obtained to assess the surface maintenance and establish the viability of keeping the courts as a facility.

Grit for the village hall car park. The suggestion is that the Village Shop ensure that the parking area used by the shop is clear. The school clears the area closest to them.

The lengthsman has previously relocated grit to the village, Cllr Cox is happy to store it.

Litter is increasing in the village shop area. A new bin is to be requested from SSDC.

Over £2000 has been saved annually by changing utilities and insurance provider.

10.2 **Solar panels: Insurance cover and Feed Income Tariff (FIT)**

A short report was circulated to the Parish Council over viewing the installation of the solar panels at the village hall five years ago. As a result of that report, the clerk has established a replacement value for the solar panels, at £30000 for insurance purposes. The insurance premium to provide cover for the solar panels is an extra £13.35 per annum. It was resolved to increase the Parish Council insurance cover to include the solar panels.

The solar panels need to be added to the Parish Council asset register.

The report also suggested to split the FIT income equally between the Parish Council and the VH&RGC each year, rather than provide an annual grant. Using the current year as a guide, half of the FIT income would be approximately the same in value as the grant provided by the Parish Council to the VH&RGC. Councillors agreed that it was appropriate to divide the FIT income 50/50, once received quarterly (after a meter reading is submitted by the Clerk), nett after any costs incurred in connection with the solar panels by the Parish Council has been deducted.

It was resolved to divide the quarterly net FIT income equally between the Parish Council and the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (once received), and to cease paying the annual grant.

11 Payments to be agreed.

11.1 It was resolved to agree the payments as listed below

Details	Credit	Debit	balance
Balance brought forward from December 2020 meeting			£27438.42
Error – SALC training is £25 not £30 as stated in December payments	£5.00		
	£5.00		£5.00
Balance agreed to statement 29 December 2020			£27443.42
Accounts for payment January 2021			
Clerk salary (December)		£333.27	
Howe Tree Surgery (CWS)		£656.25	
HMRC re clerk salary (December)		£83.20	
Timeback accounts payroll (December)		£5.00	
Bank Charges (October to December 2020)		£18.00	
Clerk expenses: phone top up, three year virus protection clerk laptop		£77.89	
BHIB additional premium to cover solar panels (invoiced amount, authorised in agenda item 10.2)		13.26	
Total		£1186.87	-£1186.87
Balance after January payments			£26256.55

11.2 To receive a bank reconciliation to 31 December 2020.

A bank reconciliation was presented by the clerk to the Parish Council. It was resolved to receive this as a true record of balances to date. A hard copy is to be signed by a councillor who is not a bank signatory, when the council next meets in person.

11.3 To approve the budget for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The budget circulated previously was discussed. Amendments to be made to accommodate the VH&RGC decisions resolved in item 10.2 at this meeting. The proposed precept amount to remain the same. It was resolved to approve the budget, with the proposed amendments, which supports a precept request of £18616.

11.4 To agree the precept for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

It was resolved that the precept request for this period will be £18616, which represents a 0.1% or £0.45 increase for the Band D council taxpayer in Long Sutton Parish.

12 Representative reports and any other matters

12.1 Community Safety

12.1.1 Monthly police report. In November there were three incidents which occurred on the A372 – two in Long Sutton and one towards Knole, as reported on the Police website.

12.2 Community Warden Scheme. The lengthsman has been pollarding trees and with addressing the moss on the tennis courts.

12.3 Highways. The Speed Indicator Device requires padlock to provide security when sited on a post. It was suggested that a high-quality combination padlock to be obtained, to allow the three parishes to move the device freely when required.

12.4 Footpaths. None.

13 Other correspondence not previously distributed.

None

14 Date of next meeting. Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7:30 pm via the Zoom platform.

Current guidance remains that the Parish Council will continue to meet remotely. Face to face meetings at the village hall will recommence only when the guidance allows.

15 Any other Business to be raised at the next meeting.

Footpaths – some stiles will need attention. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:56 pm.